

Message Text

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FOR POLITICAL ADVISORS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS

THIS IS REPEAT OF USIA CIRCULAR TELEGRAM 20121 DATED JULY
22.

QUOTE:

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1. REFTTEL REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON ALLEGATIONS THAT U.S.
HAS "DOUBLE-STANDARD" IN ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

2. A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY APPROACH TO PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS
INEVITABLY RAISES THE ISSUE OF DIFFERENT STANDARDS OR
CONSISTENCY. QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED AS TO THE REASONS
FOR TAKING ISSUE WITH ONE GOVERNMENT FOR ACTIONS WHICH

MAY SEEM TO PASS VIRTUALLY UNNOTICED WHEN DONE BY ANOTHER GOVERNMENT.

3. THE DIVERSITY AND IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY FACTORS THAT HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED ARGUE STRONGLY FOR A WELL-THOUGHT OUT COUNTRY BY COUNTRY APPROACH. USG RATIONALE FOR AN ACTIVIST HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS THAT IN DEALING WITH INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO

OR SAY WHATEVER CAN PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS IN EACH CASE, EVEN AT THE RISK OF SOME INCONSISTENCY. THE ENTIRE EFFORT REQUIRES NOT CONSISTENCY BUT COHERENCE AND COORDINATION.

4. POINTS TO BEAR IN MIND AND DRAW ON IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY NATIONALS AND OFFICIALS ARE:

(1) US HAS ON PRIOR OCCASION BEEN ACCUSED OF HAVING A "DOUBLE-STANDARD" IN ITS PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MANY AT HOME AND ABROAD HAVE ALLEGED THAT UNITED STATES "PREACHES FREEDOM WHILE IT IN FACT SUPPORTS REPRESSIVE REGIMES." IN RESPONSE TO THIS, SECRETARY VANCE HAS MADE CLEAR, AS IN CASE OF SOUTH KOREA, THAT WE MUST WEIGH A VARIETY OF FACTORS IN FURTHERING US INTERESTS, WHILE CLEARLY COMMUNICATING OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

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(2) IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN SECURITY OR STRATEGIC INTERESTS DICTATE THE PRINCIPLE OUTLINES OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS, THE HUMAN RIGHTS FACTOR IS "WAIVED." ON THE CONTRARY, WE HAVE CONDUCTED A VERY ACTIVE DIALOGUE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA AND SOUTH KOREA, ALTHOUGH FOR SECURITY REASONS WE HAVE MAINTAINED SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES. AND IN THE CASE OF THE SOVIET UNION, WE HAVE PURSUED HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS ALTHOUGH OUR STRATEGIC INTERESTS WITH THAT COUNTRY ARE OF CENTRAL CONCERN.

(3) SECRETARY VANCE HIGHLIGHTED FOLLOWING IN HIS APRIL 30 LAW DAY SPEECH AT UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA. (A.) IN EACH INSTANCE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECTS OF ANY ACTION WE MIGHT TAKE; WILL IT ACTUALLY IMPROVE THE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OR IS IT MORE LIKELY TO MAKE THINGS WORSE? (B.) IF WE DECIDE TO ACT, THE MEANS AVAILABLE WILL RANGE FROM QUIET DIPLOMACY IN ITS MANY FORMS THROUGH PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS TO WITHHOLDING ASSISTANCE. WHENEVER POSSIBLE WE WILL USE POSITIVE STEPS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

AND INDUCEMENT. IN THE END A DECISION WHETHER AND HOW TO ACT IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A MATTER OF INFORMED AND CAREFUL JUDGMENT. NO MECHANISTIC FORMULA PRODUCES AN AUTOMATIC ANSWER.

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LEGAL BASES FOR US COMMITMENT

1. DURING DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW UPON FOLLOWING LEGAL BASES FOR US COMMITMENT TO HUMAN

RIGHTS AND ALSO ON RECENT EVENTS THAT POINT UP THIS COMMITMENT:

(1) AS SIGNATORY OF UN CHARTER AND SPONSOR OF UN
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DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND UNDER US LAW, USG IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS. INVITE ATTENTION TO USIA FYI KIT 60 "HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTS."

(2) HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF US LEGISLATION DEALING WITH SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE REQUIRE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN COUNTRIES PROPOSED FOR AID BE A FACTOR IN DETERMINING IF AID IS ACTUALLY GRANTED. USG ACTION SUCH AS AID ADJUSTMENTS USUALLY RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY AND OFTEN CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT WE "HIT HARD" ONLY AT SELECTED COUNTRIES.

(3) US COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AND HEMISPHERIC INSTITUTIONS RECENTLY EVIDENCED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S SIGNING OF "AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS" AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN MACHINERY OF INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. PROPOSALS INCLUDE EXPANSION OF INTER-AMERICAN EDUCATION PROGRAM ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND REGULAR VISITS BY THE COMMISSION TO EACH NATION THAT IS A MEMBER OF ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

(4) IN HIS MARCH 17 UN SPEECH, PRESIDENT CARTER NOTED THAT HE WOULD SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

5. IN SUMMARY, WHATEVER THE RANGE OF NATIONAL INTERESTS WHICH DETERMINE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS (WHETHER THEY ARE IN DEMOCRATIC OR NON-DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES) WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT OUR ASSOCIATION MAY BE AFFECTED BY THEIR ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF OR IN VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. USG RESERVES A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS
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FOR PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. OPTION SELECTED IS THAT SINGLE ACT OR COMBINATION OF ACTS DEEMED TO HAVE BEST CHANCE FOR ADVANCING OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS UNIVER-SALLY OR IN A SPECIFIC COUNTRY UNDER PREVAILING POLITICAL, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

AGENCY PRODUCTS ON ALLEGED "DOUBLE-STANDARD"

6. AGENCY MEDIA ELEMENTS CONTINUE IN-DEPTH TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. THEY HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS. IPS IS CURRENTLY ACQUIRING AN ARTICLE EARMARKED FOR AUGUST AVAILABILITY LIST FROM PROFESSOR

DAVID HARRELL, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA. THIS ARTICLE WILL ADDRESS ALLEGED "DOUBLE-STANDARD, AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.

7. IN RESPONSE TO ILA REQUEST, IMV RECENTLY COMPLETED VTR OF INTERVIEW ON US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WITH PATRICIA M. DERIAN, COORDINATOR, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. DERIAN HAS TRAVELLED TO LATIN AMERICA IN HER CURRENT POSITION, AS ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR. SUBJECTS ADDRESSED IN THIS VTR, WHICH WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE, HAS SPECIAL MEANING IN THE CONTEXT OF REFERENCE MESSAGE. EXCERPTS FROM THIS VTR WERE CARRIED ON WIRELESS FILE JUNE 28 AS ARF-33 IN ENGLISH AND ARF-52 IN SPANISH AND CONTAIN USEFUL TALKING POINTS ON ALLEGED POLICY INCON-SISTENCY. END QUOTE. YY
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